

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. An apparatus for measuring a patient's bite, comprising:
a mount for removable attachment to a mounting point positioned relative to a patient;
a mechanical coupling coupled to the mount; and
an articulating film holder coupled to the mechanical coupling.

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2. The apparatus for measuring a patient's bite of claim 1, wherein the mount for removable attachment is adapted to clamp to a pair of glasses worn by the patient.

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3. The apparatus for measuring a patient's bite of claim 1, wherein the mount for removable attachment is adapted to couple to a mechanical mounting point on a pair of glasses worn by the patient.

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4. The apparatus for measuring a patient's bite of claim 3, wherein the mounting point and the mount for removable attachment form a ball-and-socket joint when coupled.

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5. The apparatus for measuring a patient's bite of claim 3, wherein the mount is adapted to couple to a mounting point supported by apparatus indirectly positioned relative to the patient.

6. The apparatus for measuring a patient's bite of claim 5, wherein the mount is adapted to couple to a mounting point supported by the patient's chair.

7. The apparatus for measuring a patient's bite of claim 1, wherein the mechanical coupling allows for adjustment of the position of the articulating film holder.

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8. The apparatus for measuring a patient's bite of claim 7, wherein the mechanical coupling allows for adjustment of the position of the articulating film holder, each position being substantially held stably until readjustment.

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9. The apparatus for measuring a patient's bite of claim 7, wherein the mechanical coupling comprises one or more moveable joints.

10. The apparatus for measuring a patient's bite of claim 7, wherein the mechanical coupling comprises one or more flexible members.

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11. The apparatus for measuring a patient's bite of claim 1, wherein the articulating film holder allows for adjustment of the articulating film position.

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20 The apparatus for measuring a patient's bite of claim 11, wherein the articulating film holder allows for lateral adjustment of the articulating film position to match the width of the patient's dental arches.

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25 The apparatus for measuring a patient's bite of claim 12, wherein the articulating film holder is adapted to be guided to a position in the patient's mouth by gliding along the patient's cheeks.

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The apparatus for measuring a patient's bite of claim 1, wherein the articulating film holder is adapted to receive one or more forceps that hold articulating film.

– 15. The apparatus for measuring a patient's bite of claim 1, further comprising a pair of safety glasses that include a mounting point.

5 16. An article of manufacture for measuring a patient's bite, comprising:
an articulating film having at least one marking surface, and
a disposable forceps affixed along one edge of the articulating film,
and
a package containing the articulating film and disposable forceps
10 assembly for delivery to a user.

17. The article of manufacture of claim 16, wherein the disposable forceps are affixed to the articulating film by mechanical clamping.

15 18. The article of manufacture of claim 16, wherein the disposable forceps are affixed to the articulating film by adhesion.

20 19. The article of manufacture of claim 16, wherein the disposable forceps extend longitudinally from the articulating film to form a holding tab that extends a distance corresponding to being at least partially outside the patient's mouth when in use.

25 20. The article of manufacture of claim 19, wherein the holding tab is formed to be received by an articulating film holder.

– 21. The article of manufacture of claim 20, wherein the holding tab is about 1/4 inch wide by about 1/16 inch thick.

22. A holder for coupling articulating film to an articulating film holder, comprising:

an articulating film receiver, and

a holding tab mechanically coupled to the articulating film receiver,

5 the holding tab being formed to be received by an articulating film holder.

10 23. The holder for coupling articulating film to an articulating film holder of claim 22, wherein the holding tab is about 1/4 inch wide by about 1/16 inch thick.

15 24. The holder for coupling articulating film to an articulating film holder of claim 22, wherein the articulating film receiver includes a slot for receiving a holding tab of an articulating film forceps.

20 25. The holder for coupling articulating film to an articulating film holder of claim 22, wherein the articulating film receiver further includes:

a flexible film having first and second surfaces,

a pressure sensitive adhesive formed on a first surface of the flexible film, and

25 at least one elongate member affixed to the second surface of the flexible film, the at least one elongate member being adapted to fold longitudinally to clamp articulating film between opposing first surfaces of the flexible film.

26. The holder for coupling articulating film to an articulating film holder of claim 25, wherein the at least one elongate member includes two elongate members substantially abutting one another.

27. The holder for coupling articulating film to an articulating film holder of claim 25, wherein the at least one elongate member includes a score to ease longitudinal folding.

5 28. An occlusal marking system, comprising;
 a nose post,
 a holder rod operable to couple to the nose post, and
 a spreader operable to reversibly couple to the connector rod by a moveable joint, the spreader being adapted to accept occlusal marking film
10 forceps.

29. The occlusal marking system of claim 28, wherein the holder rod is operable to couple to the nose post through a universal joint.

15 30. The occlusal marking system of claim 29, wherein the universal joint is a ball-and-socket joint.

31. The occlusal marking system of claim 28, wherein the spreader is operable to reversibly couple to the holder rod by a fork joint.

20 32. The occlusal marking system of claim 28, wherein the spreader is operable to reversibly couple to the holder rod through a joint that may be coupled and uncoupled without the use of tools.

25 33. The occlusal marking system of claim 28, wherein the spreader further includes a rotatable coupling for adjusting the width of occlusal marking film forceps.

34. The occlusal marking system of claim 33, wherein the spreader rotatable coupling includes a friction fitting for holding a set width of occlusal marking film forceps.

5 35. The occlusal marking system of claim 33, wherein the spreader rotatable coupling includes a spring to urge held occlusal marking film forceps laterally.

10 36. The occlusal marking system of claim 28, further comprising a pair of glasses whose nose bridge includes an affixed to the nose post.

37. The occlusal marking system of claim 28, wherein the nose post includes a clamp to reversibly couple to the bridge of a pair of glasses.

15 38. The occlusal marking system of claim 28, wherein the spreader is adapted to hold a pair of occlusal marking film forceps longitudinally.

39. The occlusal marking system of claim 28, wherein the spreader is adapted to hold a single occlusal marking film forceps laterally.

20 40. The occlusal marking system of claim 28, further comprising at least one occlusal marking film forceps.